

"You Turned My Mourning into Dancing" by Cissy Liu (2015)

Sunday, May 1, 2022
Third Sunday of Easter

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 OFFERING OF PRAISE

The Sounding of the Hour

Anne Armstrong

Patrick Johns, acolyte

The Prelude

"Rigaudon"

Charles Callahan

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Phoebe Capps

Now is the time to sing!
to sing the good news of God:

**who awakens us with dawn's embrace,
who surrounds us with joy and life.**

Now is the time to offer praise to God,
in every place, with every voice:

**to rejoice in the One who leads us through each moment
with a gentle hand and a word of hope.**

Now is the time to join all creation in extolling God,
from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies:

**We will sing the good news of Easter!
We will rejoice in the God who loves us.**

Written by Thom M. Shuman

*The Hymn of Praise 549

Come We That Love the Lord

FESTAL SONG

**Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.**

**Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad.**

**The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets,
Before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets.**

**Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high.**

*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”

Phoebe Capps

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 Phoebe Capps and the WOW shepherd is Elinore Fenimore.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 361

My Jesus, I Love Thee

GORDON

**My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee, all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
And singing Thy praises, before Thee I'll bow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

The Offertory Prayer

Andrew Manis
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“Zion’s Walls”
The Chancel Choir

John G. McCurry
arr. Aaron Copland

Come fathers and mothers,
Come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers, don’t you feel determined
To meet within the walls of Zion?
We’ll shout and go round
The walls of Zion.

Text: John G. McCurry (1853)

*The Offertory Response 341

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Psalms 30

Rebecca Pursiful

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.
As for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I shall never be moved.”
By your favor, O LORD,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:
“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!
O LORD, be my helper!”

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Kelsey Stillwell

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 trespass 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 21:1-19

Kelsey Stillwell

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

Sermon

“Out of the Ordinary”

Kelsey Stillwell

THE BREAD AND CUP OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Musical Mediation

“I Shall Not Want”

Audrey Assad

Kirstine Buchanan, soprano

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 302 Come Away from Rush and Hurry

PROMISE

**Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace
From our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life's demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's grace.**

**In the pastures of God's goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing into service we are led.**

**Come, then, children, with your burdens—life's confusions, fears, and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead His kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for He will quench them—He alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.**

*The Benediction

Kelsey Stillwell

*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

"Carillon Fanfare"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Paul Bryan



Our Life Together

Sunday, May 1

Men's Retreat
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 Communion
 4:00 pm Choral Society Concert
 6:00 pm Women's book club

Wednesday, May 4

9:30 am Language Ministry
 3:00 pm Open Time in youth room
 and children's center
 4:45 pm Children Worship Arts
 Workshops
 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 Adult Bible Study
 6:45 pm Flex time for children

Thursday, May 5

6:30 pm Hannah Service

Sunday, May 8

9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship

Deacons of the Week

April 28 Andrew Manis
 May 5 Jody Long

Birthdays

May 1 Charlie Grisamore
 May 2 Joan Godsey
 Doodle Grubb
 Kerri Thompson
 May 3 Ben Mitcham
 Kathleen Newton
 May 4 Jim Hunt
 Marina Spears
 May 5 Annette Chambers
 May 6 Ciera Eason
 Maxine Keoughan
 May 7 Carol Martin
 May 8 Lorelai Wall

Save the Date

May 15: Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 22: Church Cookout in High St. Park

June 20-24: VBS

Condolences

We grieve with Kent Bruner and his family in the death of his father **Philip Bruner**.

We grieve with the family of **Mildred Chapman** in her death on April 27.

Wednesday Night Supper

5:30 pm

Fellowship hall

Note: New meal pricing will be \$8 for adults, \$4 for children and \$24 max per family.

May 4: Smoky pulled pork/sliced turkey breast, potato salad/coleslaw, Mama's baked beans, Hawaiian rolls, and banana pudding or vanilla ice cream cups.

May 11: Meatball marinara/veggie Alfredo sauces with spaghetti, green salad, garlic Texas toast, double chocolate kiss cookies or fresh fruit

Naomi Black-Bass's Ordination Service

Sunday, May 1st at 3:00 pm

Smoke Rise Baptist Church in the Chapel

Naomi served as the ministry intern at FBCX while she was a student at Mercer. She will be ordained today at Smoke Rise Baptist Church.

Women's Book Club

Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Sharon Bailey, 538 Byars Dr.

We have selected "The Woman's Hour" by Elaine Weiss. Reviews describe the book as inspirational, intriguing, a page turner, and ripe for book club discussion. Anita Gustafson and Shereé Keith have agreed to co-lead the discussion. These two ladies have unique knowledge and experiences with the book and the subject. We are in for a treat!

Choral Society of Middle Georgia and Mercer University Choir present, "The Peace of Wild Things"

Stanley L. Roberts, conductor

Sunday, May 1, at 4:00 pm

FBCX sanctuary

The Choral Society of Middle Georgia and Townsend School of Music at Mercer University present this musical tapestry where human emotion connects to the natural world, inspired by the poetry of poet-farmer, Wendell Berry. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online.

Hannah Service

Thursday, May 5, at 6:30 pm

FBCX sanctuary

Mother's Day can be difficult. As much as we celebrate the gift of mothers in our lives, this day can bring feelings of grief for some people. This service is a space to gather with those who know the grief of infertility, miscarriage, death of an infant or child, adoption loss, death of a mother, and family estrangement. The Hannah Service is for people who grieve in these ways and loved ones who want to support them. We will offer space to lament and speak honestly about our grief, as well as offer hope and comfort to one another.

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed

June 20-24 from 9:00-12:15

We're excited to once again offer Vacation Bible School to the children of our church and community! We'll be using Compassion Camp from Illustrated Ministry as our theme as children learn from Scripture how to show compassion not just to others but to themselves. It takes a village to pull off VBS, so anyone who is willing to help is welcome! There are roles during the week as well as before and after, and some that don't require working directly with children. If you'd like to help or want more information, please fill out the form in the Highlites or contact JD. Registration for children will be coming next week.

MISSIONS

Together for Hope: Georgia Education Policy 101 Webinar

For All GA Public Education Stakeholders
Tuesday, May 3 at 1:00 PM

Together for Hope is a rural development coalition engaging the 301 counties of persistent rural poverty in America and is one of our ministry partners. Together for Hope and Fund Georgia's Future are sponsoring an Ed Policy 101 webinar on the importance of state education advocacy, the consequences of bad policy, and the benefits of good education policy. Dr. Stephen Owens, Senior K-12 Policy Analyst for the GA Budget & Policy Institute, and Fund GA's Future Steering Team Member, will be the

webinar speaker. All who care deeply about fully funding public schools and investing in high quality education for all Georgia's children are invited. Your voice can make an impact! To register: gbpi.org/EdPolicy101

Food Insecurity Efforts: Community Fridge

Drop off at Centenary Church or Steward Chapel AME

Donation Guidelines

Yes, please: Fresh fruit and veggies, breads and pastries wrapped individually, sealed prepared meals with date made and ingredients, unopened dairy products, cooked meat and lunch meat, personal hygiene items and menstrual products, portable protein and snacks, individually wrapped utensils, diapers and baby food.

No, thank you: raw uncooked meat, alcoholic beverages, medicine, expired food, clothing, anything you wouldn't eat, meals not separated for individuals

YOUTH

Set up for Graduate Sunday Lunch

May 14th at 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Youth and adults meet in the fellowship hall to set up and prepare for the fundraiser lunch.

Celebration for Phoebe

May 14th at 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

638 Millrun Ct

Phoebe is graduating! We will celebrate Phoebe with a party hosted by the Longs.

Graduate Recognition

Sunday, May 15 at 11:00 am

FBCX sanctuary

Youth Fundraiser Lunch

Sunday, May 15 at 12:00 pm

FBCX Fellowship Hall

Donations collected at this event will help offset the cost of the youth mission trip and Passport camp. Check the youth newsletter for details and to sign up for a shift to help set up, serve, or clean up.

Pickleball Clinic with Paul Midkiff

Thursday, May 26th at 6:00 pm

Tattnall Square Park

Macon Bacon Baseball Game

Saturday, June 4th at 7:00 pm

Luther Williams Field

The youth are selling tickets to the Macon Bacon game. \$15 ticket includes a hat and food. \$5 of each ticket goes to FBCX youth. Ticket sales end and final numbers are due Friday, May 20th.

CHILDREN

Worship Arts

Creative Writing

May 4 and 11

From the words found in ancient scripture to the tales shared around the dinner table, we are story people. The beauty of our faith is best captured in the story of God and God's people, and our role in it. For our final Worship Arts unit Kelly Whiddon will share her gifts as an English professor and mother as she helps the children explore the joy writing can bring!

Children's Ministry Workshop

Resiliency and Inclusion

May 14 at 10:00 am

FBCX and Resilient Middle Georgia are partnering to bring The Center for Inter-relational Science and Pediatrics to lead a training in the "Community Resiliency Model." Together we will discuss creating a space where all children can flourish! This is an excellent opportunity with limited space, so please contact JD if you're interested in attending.

Save the Dates:

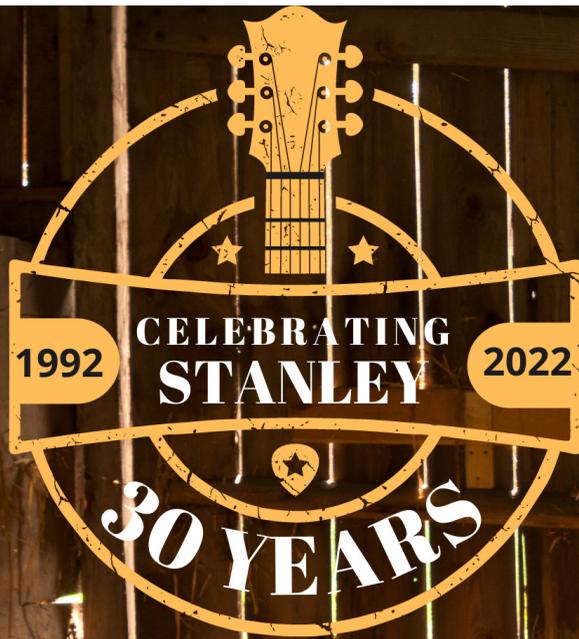
May 3: VBS registration opens

June 6: Summer Kickoff event

June 20-24: Compassion Camp VBS

July 2: Children's ministry pool party

July 30: Summer Wrap-up event



It's a

Grand Ole Opry

for a grand music minister!

Bring your favorite salad and a lawn chair,
put on your country duds, and join us in

High Street Park

May 22 at 5:00 pm

for BBQ, live music, and a grand ole time!



Graduate Recognition &
Endless Pasta-bilities Lunch Celebration

**Join us for worship and a spaghetti lunch on
Sunday, May 15
to celebrate our graduates and support our youth!**

11:00am Graduates will be recognized in
worship

12:00pm Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser
hosted by the FBCX Youth in the
Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to
lunch as we celebrate with our
graduates and our families. Donations
from this event will be used to offset the
cost of the youth mission trip and
Passport camp this summer.



Graduate Sunday

Please contact the church office if you or a family member are graduating from high school, college, or other programs. We want to ensure that all our graduates are recognized and celebrated. We also ask that you provide an email address so we can reach out to you concerning plans for Graduate Sunday.

Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser

The Youth will be hosting a Spaghetti fundraiser directly following the Graduate Sunday service on May 15th. Make plans now to stay after the service to celebrate our graduates, support our youth, and enjoy a delicious meal with your church family. To go plates will be available for a donation as well.



Two of the fingers on his right hand
had been broken

so when he poured back into that hand it
surprised him—it hurt him at first.

And the whole body was too small. Imagine
the sky trying to fit into a tunnel carved into
a hill.

He came into it two ways:
From the outside, as we step into a pair of
pants.

And from the center—suddenly all at once.
Then he felt himself awake in the dark alone.

Easter, by Marie Howe

So says the poet, Marie Howe, in her poem,
Easter, as she imagines what it must have
been like inside that tomb on Easter morn-
ing. How it must have felt for Jesus as he
reentered the world of the living. How he
“poured back into” his body, as she puts it.

How his body was “too small”—to which,
when I read this poem with a group from our
church some years back, someone said, That’s
true for all of us.

Aren’t we more than our bodies can contain?
And doesn’t that become clearer with each
passing year?

And what of this re-entering “two ways,” first
from the outside “as we step into a pair of
pants”—an image I love—and then “from the
center—suddenly all at once?” Like how we
wake up from a deep sleep. Like how we fall
in love. Was that how it was as Jesus returned
to himself inside the tomb that first Easter
morning?

Who can say? Scripture is painfully silent on
these things. The gospels don’t provide any
first-hand accounts of what happened in the
tomb that morning. No monologues from
Jesus on how the moment of resurrection felt,
what he knew and didn’t know, what he saw
and didn’t see. In fact, the gospels have very
little to say about the risen Christ at all in
those first resurrection moments. He’s
nowhere to be found.

Even as the stories of resurrection continue—
and they do continue; only the earliest man-
uscripts of Mark end at the tomb—we’re told
much more about how the disciples respond
to the risen Christ in their midst than what
the risen Christ himself is up to.

Their fears and doubts. Their questions and
bewilderment.

This is what Easter looked and felt like to the
people who were there.

And if we trace their lives from those first
Easter moments into the story of the early
church, we see that they, like the poet imag-
ines Jesus, stepped into their new, resurrected
lives two ways. From the outside in, as they
were forced to make sense of the miraculous
in their midst, and then from the center out,
as they shared their stories of encounter with
each other and felt the Holy Spirit’s presence
among them.

But they, and we, differ from the risen Christ in
one important way as we feel the truth of Easter
within us. We awake not “in the dark alone,”
but always, and blessedly, in the company of
others.

SHD

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 Easter marks the fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost. Eastertide is traditionally a time of reflection on the significance of the resurrection of Christ for our life and faith. The color white symbolizes the hope of the resurrection.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of my husband, Harvey Smith, my parents, my sisters, and my brothers, by Annette Smith.

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